

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13, 16-18 and 20 and add new claims 21-29 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ including a cable routing means configured to form a tortuous path through which a cable can be threaded.

2. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 1 wherein the cable routing means includes a member having two or more cable entry ports through which a cable may be threaded.

3. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 1 which includes one or more cables threaded through the cable routing means.

4. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 3 wherein the cable routing means is configured so that when a force is applied to the impact head the cables are forced through the cable routing means, such that resistance to cable movement provided by the tortuous cable path limits movement of the impact head caused by the force.

5. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 3 wherein the cables are under tension.

6. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 3 wherein at least one end of the cables is anchored to the ground.

7. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 6 wherein one end of the cables is anchored to the ground and ~~the~~ remaining end of the cables is anchored to a rail and/or a support post.

8. (Currently Amended) An impact head ~~for a guardrail~~ according to claim 7 wherein the impact head is positioned substantially between the two anchor points.

9. (Currently Amended) A guardrail ~~including~~ comprising:  
a plurality of support posts;  
a plurality of rails slidably interconnected and mounted directly or indirectly to the posts;  
at least one cable provided along at least a part of the length of the slidably interconnected rails wherein at least one end of the ~~cables~~ at least one cable is fixed in relation to the ground; and

~~characterised in that it includes an impact head according to claim 1~~  
~~positioned~~ with a cable routing means configured to form a torturous path at one end of the slidably interconnected rails and through which the ~~cables are~~ at least one cable is threaded.

10. (Currently Amended) A guardrail according to claim 9 wherein both ends of the ~~cables are~~ at least one cable is fixed in relation to the ground.

11. (Currently Amended) A guardrail according to claim 9 wherein the end of the ~~cables~~ at least one cable located farthest from the cable routing means is anchored to a rail and/or a support post.

12. (Currently Amended) A guardrail ~~including~~ comprising:  
a plurality of support posts;  
a plurality of rails slidably interconnected and mounted directly or indirectly to the posts;  
at least one cable provided along at least a part of the length of said slidably interconnected rails wherein each end of the ~~cables~~ at least one cable is fixed in relation to the ground; and  
an impact slider means substantially surrounding a first rail and including a portion which gathers and retains rails during an impact.

13. (Currently Amended) A guardrail according to claim 12 additionally including an impact head with a cable routing means configured to form a tortuous path through which ~~a cable~~ at least one cable can be threaded.

14. (Original) A guardrail according to claim 12 wherein the cable routing means is mounted on a first post and the impact slider device is attached to the end of a first rail.

15. (Original) A guardrail according to claim 14 wherein the impact slider device is adapted so as to be able to slide along a second rail overlapping the end of the first rail.

16. (Currently Amended) A frangible fastener for use in a guardrail ~~or an impact head for a guardrail~~ according to claim 12 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the frangible fastener ~~includes~~ comprises:

a head portion, a tail portion and a shank portion;

wherein the head portion has a minimum cross-sectional diameter greater than the maximum cross-sectional diameter of the tail portion; and

wherein the shank portion includes a frangible zone, having a minimum cross-sectional diameter smaller than the tail portion's maximum cross-sectional diameter.

17. (Currently Amended) An impact head according to claim 1 which includes one or more frangible fasteners wherein the frangible fastener ~~includes~~comprises:

a head portion, a tail portion and a shank portion;

wherein the head portion has a minimum cross-sectional diameter greater than the maximum cross-sectional diameter of the tail portion; and

wherein the shank portion includes a frangible zone, having a minimum cross-sectional diameter smaller than the tail portion's maximum cross-sectional diameter.;

18. (Currently Amended) A guardrail according to claim 9 which includes one or more frangible fasteners wherein the frangible fastener ~~includes~~comprises:

a head portion, a tail portion and a shank portion;

wherein the head portion has a minimum cross-sectional diameter greater than the maximum cross-sectional diameter of the tail portion; and

wherein the shank portion includes a frangible zone, having a minimum cross-sectional diameter smaller than the tail portion's maximum cross-sectional diameter.;

19. (Original) A guardrail according to claim 9 wherein it includes one or more frangible posts comprising:

a first member substantially orthogonally connected to a second member,

wherein the at least one first member has a region of weakness.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a guardrail including the steps of:

installing a plurality of support posts;

slidably interconnecting a plurality of rails and mounting them directly or indirectly to said posts;

fixing at least one end of at least one cable to the ground; and

positioning an impact head with a cable routing means configured to form a tortuous path through which a cable can be threaded at one end of the slidably interconnected rails and threading at least one cable through it.

21. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the tortuous path is configured to absorb at least a portion of the kinetic energy of an impact on the impact head.

22. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the tortuous path is any path that provides sufficient friction to slow down the movement of the impact head during an impact.

23. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the tortuous nature of the passage through the cable routing means is provided by one or more turns through which the cable may be threaded.

24. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the tortuous nature of the passage through the cable routing means is provided by one or more turns of greater than substantially 90° through which the cable may be threaded.

25. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the cable routing means includes at least one substantially 180° turn.

26. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the cable routing means includes at least one substantially S or Z-shaped turn.

27. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the cable routing means is adapted so that in use and during a collision or impact with the impact head, the cable is forced through the cable routing means, where resistance

to cable movement provided by the tortuous cable path substantially facilitates impact energy dissipation.

28. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the cable routing means comprises a bar member having a longitudinal axis and including a cable entry port adapted to allow the cable to pass directly therethrough when said bar member is in a first non-cable-gripping orientation, and wherein upon rotation of said bar member through at least 90° about said longitudinal axis, a second cable-gripping orientation is reached.

29. (New) An impact head according to claim 1 wherein the tension of one or more cables can be adjusted so as to give a suitable resistance to movement.